

## NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

June 15, 2015

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, June 15, 2015, in the media center of the Block Island School. Secretary Elizabeth Connor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, Christopher Willi, and William Padien. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion (Connor, Doyle) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on May 18 and 26, 2015, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0 with William Padien not in attendance.

### **Reports**

Several seventh grade students were in attendance to talk about their sailing experience on the Schooner Mary Day. Some of their favorite things included climbing the rat boards, hiking before boarding the boat, and tying knots.

The budget is showing about \$20,000 more to the positive over last month. The warmer weather and lower fuel prices have contributed to the increased savings in heating fuel and electricity. It was noted that the principal has been given the authority to overspend textbooks by \$6,000 because of the surplus we are projecting at year end. A motion (Connor, Doyle) to accept the finance report through May 31, 2015, carried with a vote of 4-0 with William Padien not in attendance.

### **Old Business**

According to School Committee Bylaws, additions to policy require action by a majority of the School Committee at two successive regular meetings or a unanimous vote of all five members at a regular meeting. Policy DDB: Energy Conservation was presented for a second vote because only four members were present at last month's meeting. A motion (Connor, Willi) to approve Policy DDB: Energy Conservation as written carried with a vote of 4-0 with William Padien not in attendance.

### **New Business**

Policy FBF-2: Dual Enrollment was submitted for School Committee review. Mr. Hicks explained that a section on dual enrollment is already included within FBF: Graduation Requirements, but it lacks all of the required elements in the new state regulation. The new policy (FBF-2) will replace the section on concurrent enrollment found in Policy FBF. A motion (Connor, Hall) to post Policy FBF-2: Dual Enrollment for the required 20-day period carried with a vote of 4-0 with William Padien not in attendance.

A motion (Connor, Hall) to post Policy FBF: Graduation Requirements for the required 20-day period carried with a vote of 4-0 with William Padien not in attendance.

Two bids were received for the roof replacement of the K-7 sections of the building: M. Barboza & Sons in the amount of \$119,600 and Capeway Roofing Systems in the amount of \$165,500. Mr. Hicks recommended awarding the bid to M. Barboza & Sons because it was the lowest bid and this company repaired the high school roof this past winter. A motion (Padien, Connor) to award the K-7 roof repair bid to M. Barboza & Sons in the amount of \$119,600 contingent upon RIDE's approval of the project carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Reports**

William Padien reported that graduation was a great event and everyone had fun. All of the speeches were fantastic and he appreciated all the hard work that went into it to make it such a special day.

### **New Business**

A motion (Connor, Hall) to adopt the resolution on Gun Free Schools carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks stated that for several years we have been setting aside funds to pay for future OPEB (retirement health care) obligations. As a small entity it is challenging and expensive to set up our own trust for this purpose. Our insurer, the Interlocal Trust has created a program where smaller entities can pool together in creating such a vehicle. He asked the School Committee's authorization to move forward. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the resolution authorizing the joining of the OPEB Trust provided by Interlocal Risk carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to designate Finance Director Melanie Reeves as the plan administrator with authority to sign documents carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks explained that the three investment options available through Vanguard are Conservative, Balanced, and Growth. Growth is the generally recommended fund because the typical OPEB trust is viewed as a long term investment. Given our demographics and small size, it is possible that it would be in our interest to access these funds in the next several years. Preserving the investment in a shorter term is more important for us than growth right now. However, the choice can be easily changed at any time. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the conservative investment fund through Vanguard carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to authorize the transfer of \$86,237 (the amount set aside from reserves through June 30, 2014) to the OPEB Trust carried with a vote of 5-0.

The Town Manager will be assembling a search committee for the Facilities Manager position. The Town Council requested that a School Committee member be included on this committee, which will be represented by the building industry, the architecture industry, the public at large, the Large Capital Asset Study Committee, and the School Committee. A motion (Connor, Hall) to appoint William Padien as the School Committee representative on the Facilities Manager Search Committee carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Padien recognized Bonnie Swienton, who will be retiring at the end of this school year, for her many years of service. He stated that both of his children are excelling in math and Mrs. Swienton has played a huge part in this.

Mr. Padien announced that at its meeting on May 26, 2015, the School Committee voted to offer the superintendent position to Dr. Judith Lundsten. Even though the vote was official, it was decided to vote again at a regular meeting. A motion (Padien, Connor) to appoint Dr. Judith Lundsten to the position of Superintendent of the New Shoreham School Department carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointments of Victoria Carson – Special Education Teacher, Martha Velie-Gass – Special Education Teacher, Megan Hennessy – Music Teacher, Donna Smith – Speech/Language Pathologist, Kathleen Schlenz – Occupational Therapist, Pat O’Leary – Physical Therapist, Caitlin Dutson – Teacher Assistant, and Cassie Babcock – Teacher Assistant for the extended school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointments of Maura Cousins and Eileen Miller as the Summer Reading/Math Tutors carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Kate Mello as the scheduling coordinator carried with a vote of 5-0.

A request for tuition reimbursement was received from Robert Closter, Jr. for two courses he plans to take during the fall semester (Legal Issues in Health, Recreation, and Physical Education; Ethics in Health, Recreation, and Physical Education). A motion (Connor, Padien) to approve Mr. Closter’s request for tuition reimbursement pursuant to the terms and conditions of the School Committee/Teachers’ Contract carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mark Mollicone (junior high baseball) requested an additional coaching stipend because he worked the entire season without an assistant coach. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the additional stipend requested by Mark Mollicone carried with a vote 5-0.

The Finance Director’s contract, which was updated with the information approved at last month’s meeting, was submitted for School Committee review and approval. A motion (Connor, Hall) to approve the Finance Director’s contract and authorizing the Chair to sign it carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Calendar of Events**

A motion (Padien, Connor) to change the July meeting from 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7 carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Correspondence**

The kindergarten students sent a thank you card to the School Committee for their trip to the Peabody Museum.

### **Executive Session**

A motion (Connor, Hall) at 7:49 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(1) for a discussion of job performance and (2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 4-0 with William Padien having recused himself for the discussion on job performance.

**Open Session**

A motion (Connor, Padien) at 9:20 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Connor, Hall) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 5-0.

Elizabeth Connor reported that the following motion was made during executive session: A motion (Doyle, Willi) to seek legal counsel to determine the next step in considering the rescinding of the non-renewal of David Prior did not carry by a vote of 2-2 with Patricia Doyle and Christopher Willi voting in the affirmative and Elizabeth Connor and Ann Hall voting in the negative.

Mr. Padien reported that the following motion was made during executive session: A motion (Connor, Hall) to offer Dr. Lundsten \$560 per diem with the option of going as high as \$581 if necessary carried with a vote of 5-0.

**Adjournment**

A motion (Padien, Willi) at 9:24 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: July 7, 2015